

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

THE DELEGATES CAME IN BY THE HUNDREDS YESTERDAY.

The Baptist Young People's Union to Meet This Morning at the First Baptist Church—Interesting Programme for the Occasion—Other Meetings Today—Distinguished Arrivals.

Wilmington opened her gates to the Baptists yesterday and they came in on every train in hundreds to attend the annual session of the Southern Baptist convention which convenes here tomorrow at 9:30 a. m. in the First Baptist church, of which that able and popular minister, the Rev. Wm. B. Oliver is pastor. All the regular trains brought in delegates, and three special trains came in yesterday evening and last night. The first special to arrive was over the Atlantic Coast Line, via the Wilmington and Weldon railroad, at 6:30 p. m. It brought a large number of delegates. Another special arrived over the Atlantic Coast Line via the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta railroad, at 11 o'clock last night, bringing another large delegation. A special also arrived by way of Hamlet at 11:30 o'clock last night, bringing in more delegates. In all, the arrivals of delegates yesterday footed up 624.

A special train of Pullman cars will arrive this morning over the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railway. It will come from Atlanta by way of the Southern railway and thence to Wilmington from Greensboro. One section will get here at 7:25 a. m. and the other at 8:10 p. m.

THE BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

The Baptist Young People's Union will be the first organization to meet. It will convene at the First Baptist church this morning at 10 o'clock. The following will be the programme:

- PROGRAMME:
- 10:00.....Devotional Exercises.
 - Oscar Haywood, of Mississippi.
 - 10:30.....Welcome Addresses.
 - George E. Leftwich, of Wilmington.
 - J. W. Bailey, of North Carolina.
 - Response—Member of Convention.
 - 11:00.....Address—"Personal Consecration."
 - John T. Pullen, North Carolina.
 - 11:30.....Address—"The Union as a School for Training Leaders."
 - Charles S. Gardner, South Carolina.
 - 12:00.....Address—"To be supplied."
 - 12:30.....Announcement of Committees and Miscellaneous Business.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

- 2:00.....Business and Workers' Meeting.
- Enrollment of Members and Election of Officers.
- Address—"The Study Course and the Result of a Year's Work."
- R. VanDeventer, of Georgia.
- Address—"Practical Workings of a Successful Union."
- William H. Smith, of Georgia.
- Report of Executive Committee and Board of Managers.

NIGHT SESSION.

- 8:00.....Devotional Exercises.
- Harry A. Bagby, of Virginia.
- 8:30.....Address—"The Church of Tomorrow."
- John O. Rust, of Tennessee.
- 9:00.....Address—"A Captured and Fettered Generation."
- William L. Pickard, of Kentucky.
- Closing Remarks.
- John D. Jordan, General Secretary.

The executive committee of the Woman's Foreign Mission Union will meet this afternoon at 4 o'clock at the First Presbyterian church.

The college conference of the Southern Baptist convention will meet this morning at 9:30 o'clock at Grace M. E. church.

THE CONVENTION.

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845, and at present is composed of about 1,700 delegates. It is estimated that from 900 to 1,000 delegates will be here, besides 5,000 or more visitors.

The president of the convention, the Hon. Jonathan Harrison, of Alabama, has been heard from and will be here today. He will be a guest of The Orton. The Rev. Dr. O. F. Gregory, of Baltimore, one of the secretaries of the convention, arrived yesterday, and Dr. Lansing Burruss, of Augusta, Ga., the other secretary, is expected today. They will also stop at The Orton.

The first session of the convention will be held at the First Baptist church tomorrow at 10 a. m.

THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

On account of inability to make satisfactory arrangements, the American Baptist Education Society, through its executive committee, has decided not to hold a meeting in connection with the Southern Baptist convention this year. A meeting for business only will be held in connection with the Northern Baptist Anniversary, which will be held at Pittsburg, beginning May 17th.

SOME OF THE ARRIVALS YESTERDAY.

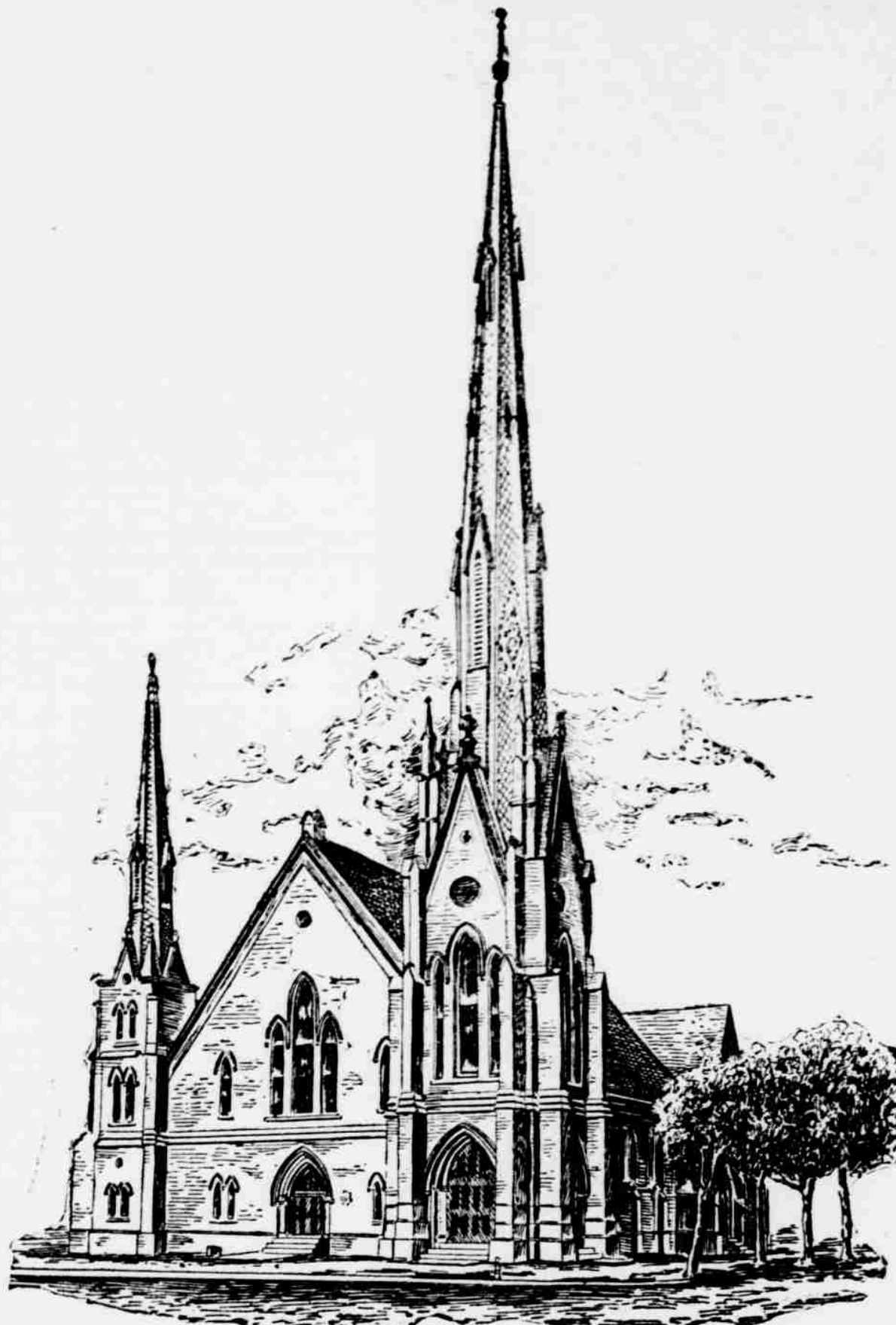
Among the delegates who arrived in the city yesterday were the following: Judge J. H. Hudson, of Bennettsville, S. C. He is a guest of the Hon. George Rountree.

Dr. W. C. Lindsay, the distinguished pastor of the First Baptist church, Columbia, S. C.

The Rev. J. C. Russell, of Dallas, Tex., the noted evangelist. Mr. Russell hopes to spend three months in evangelical work in North Carolina. By the way, he is a native of Mecklenburg county, and during the war served three months in Wilmington and vicinity as assistant chaplain of the Eleventh North Carolina regiment.

The Southern Educational Baptist Conference.

Among the many adjuncts which have come to be attached to the Southern Baptist convention is that of the Southern Baptist Educational conference. It was organized at Birmingham, Alabama, in 1891 and has grown to such proportions that its friends are beginning to consider the advisability



MEETING HOUSE OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN WHICH THE SESSIONS OF THE CONVENTION ARE TO BE HELD.

of severing it from the annual meeting of the great convention, and at a later period, during meeting give a week to the consideration of topics of general interest.

The conference is one of the legitimate outgrowths of the prevailing spirit of education throughout the south. The steady advancement of its interest has been commensurate with the progress of education throughout the Southern States.

The seventh annual session of the conference is to be held at Grace M. E. church, corner Grace and Fourth streets in this city today. The exercises begin this morning at 9:30 o'clock. The officers of the conference are two—a president and a secretary. President Savage, of the Southwestern university, Jackson, Tennessee, is the presiding officer of the body, and Dr. B. F. Riley, of the University of Georgia, is the secretary. Many distinguished educators reached the city on yesterday and last night in order to be in attendance upon the meeting. Others are expected, to arrive this morning, in order to participate. Many important papers upon vital topics are to be read and discussed during the day. We learn that the public are cordially invited to be present. The following is the programme of this important meeting:

PROGRAMME.

1. Social Life of Students; Its Needs and Helps—President S. D. Jones B. L. South West Virginia Institute.
2. What an Alumnus can do for his College—Professor A. P. Montague, Ph. D. Columbian University.
3. Model College Course for Young Women—Vice President John W. Millon, Hardin College, Mo.; President R. G. Patrick, Judson Institute, Ala.
4. Denominational and State Schools—C. C. Brown, D. D., Sumter, S. C.; Professor B. F. Riley, D. D., University of Georgia.
5. Separate, or Co-education—President R. C. Burleson, D. D., LL. D., Baylor University, Texas; President W. E. Yeaman, D. D., Grand River College, Mo.
6. Bible Study in Colleges—Professor Thomas Hume, D. D., University of North Carolina; Professor W. R. Cullom, Wake Forest College, N. C.
7. How to Bring Our Denominational Institutions closer to the Churches?—President C. F. James, D. D., Roanoke Female College, Va.; T. T. Eaton, D. D., Louisville, Ky.
8. Should Discipline be Divided Between Faculty and Students?—Professor Collier Cobb, A. M., University of North Carolina; Professor R. E. Gaines, M. A., Richmond College, Va.
9. What is a College—Professor S. E. Jones, A. M., Carson and Newman College, Tenn.; President J. G. Lile, A. M., Central Baptist College, Ark.
10. The Study of History in Colleges—Chaplain J. William Jones, D. D., Miller School, Va.; President F. L. Riley, A. M., Ph. D., Hillman College, Miss.

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upon you the moment you begin to regard them, is that they are like the sands on the seashore for multitude. If white Baptists in the Southern Baptist Convention who have been numbered—not counting the wild and scattered tribes who have never been corralled—were to pass a given point at the rate of five a minute and for eight hours a day, how long would it take for the procession to pass? Nearly two years. If these were to stand in line giving to each six feet of room, the line would reach nearly 2,000 miles. What a bewildering host they are! Nearly 1,500,000 of them, and several back counties to hear from!

Another inspiring fact is the highly gratifying growth which the figures exhibit. How many persons were baptized into the membership of white Baptist churches in the south in the twelve months covered by our last year book? Eighty-eight thousand, two hundred and sixty-four! That is to say, the baptisms numbered about as many as all the white Baptists in South Carolina, or 50 per cent. more than the white Baptists in Florida, Louisiana, and Maryland combined. Eighty-eight thousand added by baptism. That is a fact to be pondered by grateful hearts.

But, while the actual progress is remarkable, the rate of growth is disappointing. Eighty-eight thousand additions means, speaking roughly, that there has been one baptism for every twenty church members. This would suggest some need of exhorting the churches to more active evangelism.

Another fact, distinctly disappointing, which the figures reveal is the highly defective condition of the Sunday school work in our territory. There are 16,929 churches, and only 9,868 Sunday schools. In other words—and this is a most startling and surprising fact—there are in our territory 7,241 white churches without Sunday schools—a few more than this, indeed, since it is reasonable to suppose that some of the churches have several, which in turn, in our day and age, is a very commendable thing.

The most cursory inspection of the facts and figures in detail will show clearly to the unprejudiced mind that Southern Baptists suffer from a bad case of "defective education." Individualism, which is the root of our doctrine and polity, sometimes runs to seed. It is fair to take the Sunday-school work as a test of wisely directed church activity. Testing in this way we shall come out upon this general result: Wherever the Baptists of a state are broken up into an extraordinary number of associations and churches, the proportion of Sunday schools is small. Here is a state with 77 associations and 1,702 churches; the Sunday schools number 723, or less than half the number of churches. Here is another, with 59 associations and 1,372 churches, the Sunday schools number 347, or about one to every four churches. Others might be cited as follows: One with 1,566 churches and 938 Sunday schools; another with 1,253 churches and 596 Sunday schools; another with 1,439 churches and 711 Sunday schools; another with 2,608 churches and 1,053 Sunday schools.

Now, if these figures should weary the reader, here is the fact which they discover, which must have value and importance in his eyes. About half of the churches in these states in which this policy of division and sub-division is dominant are not maintaining Sunday schools. On the other hand here is a state which has only one association and 56 churches, and these have sixty-five Sunday schools. If it is held that it is scarcely fair to compare Maryland with other states we are willing to take South Carolina. Here is her record: 891 churches and 680 Sunday schools. Or if the Herald may be excused, we point to Virginia. Her record, according to the latest revised figures, published in the last issue of this paper, is 917 churches, with 910 Sunday schools. Not the least significant fact here is that 167 of these are mission schools.

M. M. RILEY,
W. T. LOWREY,
W. S. RYLAND,
Committee.

Southern Baptists.

The following editorial from this week's Richmond Religious Herald is of great interest to our Baptist friends.

"For the purposes of this article we do not take, in what we have to say, any account of the colored Baptists. They are an innumerable host. Scarcely anything has yet been achieved in the way of making them effective in the conversion of the world. Something—not much—has been done by way of arousing and informing the conscience of some portion of this vast, undisciplined mass, and leading them into a larger and more intelligent conception of pure and undefiled religion. The negroes have been freed just thirty-two years—about the estimated life of one generation. A third of a century is not much in the life of a race. We must be patient and forbearing and helpful in our attitude toward and interest in the tremendous task of trying to lift and save the 'brother in black.'"

But the figures and facts and arguments of this article are concerned with the white Baptists resident in the territory of the Southern Baptist convention. The first fact which breaks

And now the thoughtful reader will have observed that we have covered the ground quite completely—the Sunday school work standing for the local activities of these churches, and the Foreign Mission testing their breadth of view and largeness of heart.

However, considering our whole territory, how ineffective our vast force is may be seen from the fact that the convention year of 1896-97, \$101,168.01 to Foreign Missions, or 7 cents apiece. That is the careless statement we sometimes make. The fact is that something like three-fourths give nothing, and the other fourth average 28 cents apiece.

This is depressing, but not more depressing than the other fact, that, although we baptized 88,000 in twelve months, we actually gave to foreign missions \$2,000 less in 1896-97 than in 1894-95. Take off \$200,000 from 1894-95 for the centennial influence left over from the previous year, and for somewhat better financial conditions, and we get the amazing result that the addition of 88,000 by baptism added not one cent to our gifts to Foreign Missions.

Out of all these figures, and many others which could be easily shown, there comes one overwhelming thought: Southern Baptists must get together. Instead of breaking apart over every conceivable difference of opinion, they must put these matters of mere opinion aside, and must get together. Let rival newspapers settle their own difficulties; let those who are striving for personal leadership here and there beat the air as much as they please, but let not their petty and selfish ambitions disturb the peace or diminish the fraternity of the great host. Before Southern Baptists are set at once the most tremendous tasks and the most magnificent opportunities ever assigned or offered to any people.

If they would perform the one and improve the other, they must put far from them the spirit of discord and alienation. And the men who set to work to create this discord, in district or state or in the Convention—who, for the gratification of private grudges or the attainment of private ends, are willing to still further divide and weaken this army of the Lord—what are they but schismatics, who hinder the gospel of Christ?

Finally, may not one and all, as the foregoing facts and figures come upon us with both welcome and unwelcome significance, understand therefrom that it is possible to be right on the constitution of a New Testament church, right on the ordinances (as to actions and subjects), right on the doctrines of grace—and wrong—disastrously wrong—on other matters of great importance? Wrong, perhaps, in the very spirit which characterizes our advocacy of the assured and unshakable truth—as if, because we were in the right, it was necessary to mean about it! Wrong, perhaps, in putting opinions and preferences about unimportant and extraneous matters in the high and authoritative place in conscience which only convictions of the clear teaching of the Word ought to occupy, and thus introducing new and unwarranted tests of fellowship, and still further dividing the body of Christ! Let Southern Baptists get together!

Mr. Tom Barrow Not Dead.

The Messenger is truly glad to learn that Mr. Tom Barrow, of Smithfield, Va., the well known traveling representative of Messrs. E. Greenfield, Son & Co., of New York, is still in the land of the living. It was reported that he had died suddenly in Richmond, Va., and was so published in The Messenger yesterday on information received in Wilmington through some traveling men who heard it. Mr. Barrow's friends here, and a number of his traveling friends who happened to be in the city, were greatly distressed at the report of his death, and when it was learned that it was not true, there was great rejoicing.

The Messenger yesterday wired Mr. Barrow's house concerning the report of his death, and promptly received the following answer:

New York, May 5, 1897.

Editors Messenger: The report is false. Tom Barrow enjoys good health.

E. GREENFIELD, SON & CO.

Now that Mr. Barrow is still in the flesh, The Messenger will take this opportunity to apologize to him for the head over the announcement in these columns yesterday. The sad news was headed, "An Unknown Drummer Dead." The head was written "A Well Known Drummer Dead," but the other version was overlooked in the proof reading. No drummer on the road is better known or has more friends than Mr. Barrow.

Warren's Prices on Candies.

Huyler's mixed, 60c per pound; Lowrey's mixed chocolate, 35c per pound; Vanilla Cream Chocolates, extra nice, 25c per pound. We are sole agents for above goods. Guaranteed fresh.

Hubbard Bros. & Co's Cotton Letter.

New York March 4.

At the advance the demand from spinners at home and abroad was checked by the rapid upward movement not by any recession in trade or increase in the supply, but simply by a feeling among consumers that the last of the advance was speculative and would be lost. In this conclusion, they were correct as their partial withdrawal from the markets has caused a recession in values of nearly a dollar a bale. As the markets have been without speculation the recession has come quickly and the bearish feeling so long prevalent again dominates the trade. We find the south also disposed to be bearish on their belief that the coming crop will be a large one, following the failure of the last two seasons. This feeling is not an unnatural one when the desire to raise a large crop is now the prevailing hope throughout the entire cotton belt, but up to the present time the weather conditions as a whole do not justify the current belief, and all depends upon the season from now on. Every effort will be made to raise as much cotton as possible, but we have no idea that the planters will neglect to raise a food crop this season. There are, as usual, two opinions held by the trade. The bulls believe the consumption of cotton will reduce the supplies to the lowest point in years and that the demand for the staple will not only sustain, but advance prices. Their premises cannot be denied by the bears who offer the view that the prospects for the growing crop must improve during May and June, and the spinners therefore will be content to wait as long as possible for the new crop, thereby preventing

any advance with the possibility of lower prices.

In the absence of any active speculation for an advance the movement upward under the daily demand for consumption is subject to just such sudden reactions as have occurred this week, but it is noticeable that the market has slowly but surely advanced since the middle of December, despite the ridicule and opprobrium cast upon any one who had held to the optimistic view of the situation. Every premise put forward by the bulls has been sustained by the facts which have come to light, and if the spinners find themselves without adequate supplies of cotton they have simply to blame those trade journals which have encouraged them to believe that the present crop would finally reach somewhere in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 bales.

It is the history of markets that an advance culminates when the trade wonders who dares to sell in anticipation of a decline and that a decline stops when they stand aghast at those who have the courage to buy. Half way points between these expressions are usually only reactions from the current tendency.

Mr. Ellison estimates on a basis of a crop of \$450,000, and an American consumption of 2,650,000 bales, that there will remain in the European ports 350,000 bales of American cotton on the 30th of September. The current estimate of the American crop is 8,500,000 bales and the American consumption is here estimated at 2,750,000 bales. These last estimates are proven correct, the stock of American cotton at the date Mr. Ellison named would be simply absurd. There is little probability of the American mills shutting down as they did last season, and we believe that the current estimate of American consumption will be proven correct. Seldom has it been profitable in the end to act upon the belief in a large crop at this season of the year and in view of the low prices, the strong position and the dangers which yet confront the new crop, we cannot change our views as to the course of prices.

The Tennessee Centennial.

Nashville, Tenn., May 5.—Today was children's day and Mexico day at the exposition. The perfect weather and bright sunshine induced a large attendance.

In the woman's building the second of the series of the convocations under the auspices of the Ladies' Hermitage Association, Nashville, and Hermitage Chapter, D. A. R., Memphis, was held. The audience was large and brilliant.

Mrs. J. A. R. Sterling, of Memphis, regent of the chapter, presided and spoke on "The Influence of Our Order on the Present and Future." She concluded by reciting an appropriate poem.

Mrs. Emmet Howard next spoke on the subject "Our Chapter Life."

A recitation, "The Royal Princess," by Miss Betty Ensley, of Memphis, followed.

Miss Louise Mooney, of Memphis, read an essay, "The Women of 1786 and 1886."

Mrs. Sarah B. Kennedy gave an original poem.

The programme was lavishly interesting.

Children's day exercises were given in the children's building by the pupils of the John W. Thomas school before a large audience.

REDUCTION IN OFFICE FORCE

Of the Southeastern Freight Association Twenty Five Men Discharged.

There has been a heavy reduction of the force of the Southeastern Freight Association. Chairman Parrott has cut it down from sixty to thirty-five men. No salaries have been reduced except in the cases of five men, who were dropped from the rate or inspection departments and given subordinate places in the statistical department. In those cases they get the salary of the position they take.

Heretofore the force has been eleven clerks in the inspection department. Only two were retained there. There were fourteen in the rate department, which has six now. The statistical department had twenty-five, and now has twenty.

The heads of departments and the secretary are all retained. Several others in the main office have been dropped.

Chairman Parrott said in speaking of the matter: "It was the idea of the executive board to cut the inspection force to a minimum and reduce all the others. The junior clerks were let out and those most efficient by reason of experience and long service have been retained. A few of these were transferred to subordinate positions in other departments. It may be necessary hereafter to increase the force to fifty men, but if so, these, as far as possible, will be put in positions such as they have held heretofore. There has been no reduction of salaries. The men who take subordinate positions get the salaries heretofore paid for that work, but there are only five of these men. The average of salaries is really increased, because the juniors were let out. The heads of departments are all retained."

In regard to rates, Mr. Parrott said: "There will probably be a meeting of the conference committee on the 11th. I am taking a telegraphic vote on that date, and so far it is acceptable."—Atlanta Journal.

Made Another Mistake.

At the phenologist's general invitation a big man with a smoothly shaven face, pig nose and prominent chin stepped upon the stage and took his seat.

The phenologist felt his head carefully for awhile, and then said: "This subject shows a gentle and mild disposition, and has unusually well developed organs of benevolence and love for his fellow-men. He is tender-hearted, and loves to relieve the sufferings of others. Now, sir, what is your profession?"

The big man smiled, and said: "I am a nurse in a charity hospital, sir," and the audience, which had opened its mouth to yell when the man acknowledged to being a prize fighter,

Statue Unveiled.

Washington, May 5.—The statue erected on the Smithsonian grounds to the memory of the late Professor Samuel Gross, of Pennsylvania, was unveiled this afternoon. The members of the Congress of American Physicians, now in session here, attended the exercises in a body.

A. G. Spaulding Dead.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 5.—Albidge Gerry Spaulding, known as the "father of the green back," died today at his home in this city aged 88 years.

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PRUNELINE is the safest and surest cathartic and aperient one can use. It thoroughly cleanses without griping, purifies the blood and removes all waste from the system. It does away with Castor Oil, Salts, Blue Mass and all other nauseous purgatives. It tones and energizes all the great organs of the system. It is free from all harshly acting drugs, and is always safe, always ready, always reliable.

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BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED AND ENTERED UNTIL MAY 10, 1897, at 12 o'clock m., for the purchase of the balance of stock of Boots, Shoes, Clothing, Tobacco and Cigars then unsold which was conveyed to me by Deed of Assignment made by H. Burkholder. Inventory can be seen at store, northeast corner Front and Market streets. A. J. HOWELL, Assignee.

E. VanLaer.

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Administratrix Notice.

HAVING QUALIFIED AS ADMINISTRATRIX upon the estate of Rufus H. Chasten, deceased, late of New Hanover county, this is to notify all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to me, duly authenticated, on or before the twenty-third day of April, A. D. 1898, or this notice will be filed in bar of their recovery. MATTIE L. CHASTEN, Administratrix. April 23, 1897. ap 24 1 w 4t.